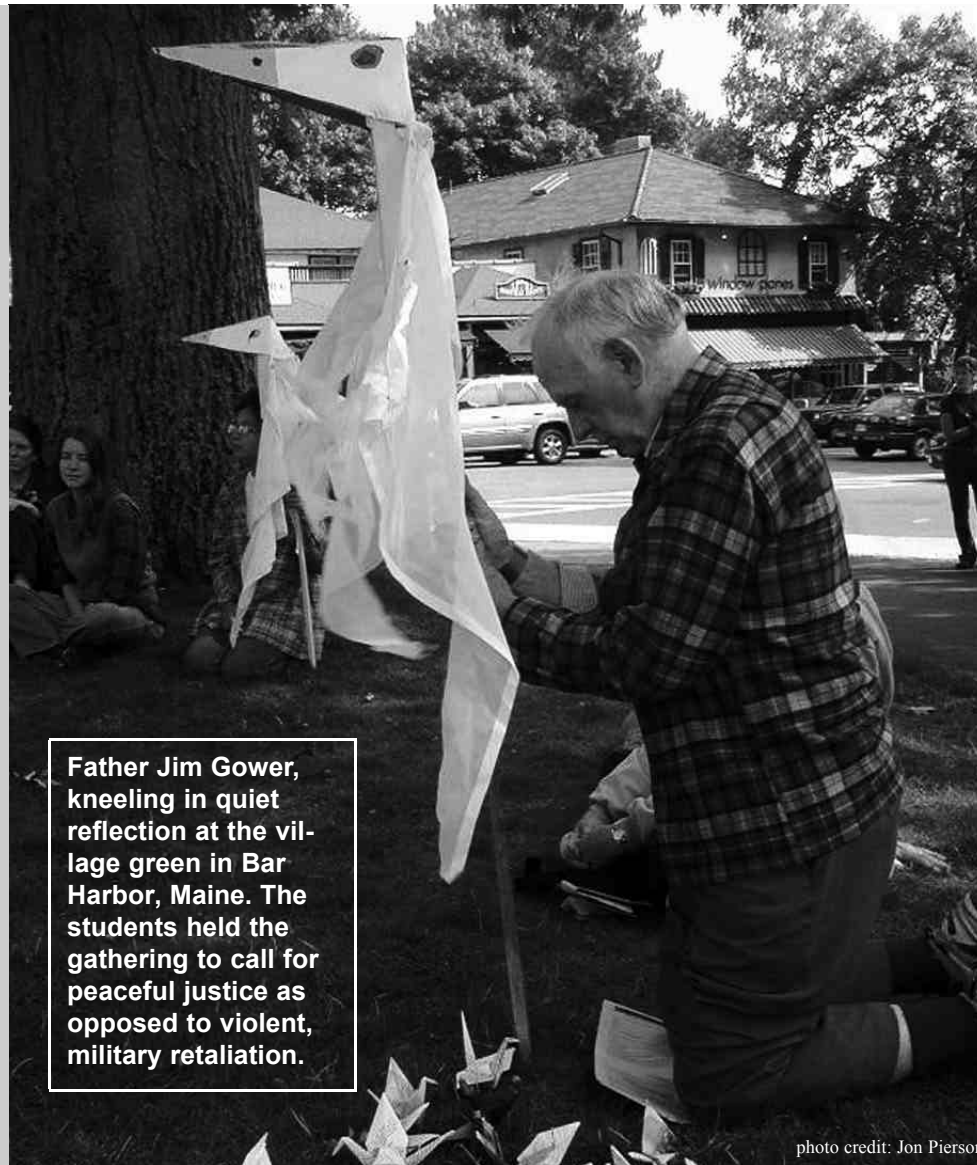




Across the state of Maine, as throughout the world, there have been daily vigils, rallies, teach-ins and protests since September 11th. In Maine there have been continuing peace vigils and marches in Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, Rockland, Bucksport and many other towns, and at many schools and churches. The focus of these events has been wide -- not solely anti-war, but mourning the victims of the attacks, calling for alternatives to war, calling for solidarity with women of Afghanistan, illuminating what the effects of the war are upon Afghanistan, speaking out against racial profiling and racism, discussing what changes need to be made to U.S. policy to help eliminate the causes of terrorism, educating about media spin of the events, discussing the role of corporate power in all of the surrounding events, effects of government response to job loss while giving money to corporations, speaking out to keep and regain civil liberties, and working for outreach and connection with people of all backgrounds throughout the state and the world.

*Within this issue of the Maine Commons there are three first-hand accounts of experiences from these gatherings -- one from a College of the Atlantic vigil, one from an action in Bangor, and one from a march in Portland. Turn to **page 10** for more.*



Father Jim Gower, kneeling in quiet reflection at the village green in Bar Harbor, Maine. The students held the gathering to call for peaceful justice as opposed to violent, military retaliation.

photo credit: Jon Pierson

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Crisis Profiteering

Economic Boost for Corporations
Economic Drain for Americans

BY HILLARY LISTER

When it was reported that in New York City, scam artists were selling vials of construction dust to the grieving relatives of September 11th victims as mementos of their loved ones, there was widespread outrage voiced. Little is being said, however, of the fact that meanwhile, in DC, lobbyists and politicians are taking advantage of this same crisis to make many times greater profit by pushing through the same self-serving tax breaks that they have been seeking for many years.

The \$100,000,000,000 "economic stimulus" bill, HR 3090, passed by a vote of 216-214 in the House of Representatives on October 12th. The name of this one billion dollar bill is "Economic Security and Recovery Act of 2001". The question is -- security and recovery for whom?

CRISIS : CONTINUED ON PG. 6

War or War?

BY CAROLYN CHUTE

The working people and the people who've been totally trashed by this system (the un-working people) want war.

They are being squeezed, jammed, slammed, crushed, manipulated, made fools of, worked to death or denied work since the first day they stepped in a school and each day worse and worse. Generations of people, squeezed an increment more every hour. And yet told they should feel lucky because someone in another land or in the past is/was worse off.

They Want War.

Since the true enemy is so big, it's invisible; since the true enemy poses as a loving parent or tough guardian it has channeled the warrior instinct of the people away from itself and onto others.

You will never win over a squeezed

and pissed off people with a campaign of "peace."

Many of us have verbalized and seen bold evidence that the entire system is deadly. But to most people, that word "System" is an abstraction. War on the System?? It isn't something which gives relief.

Think about relief. Burps give relief. Orgasms give relief. Chewing up crunchy or meaty foods gives relief. Punching somebody gives relief.

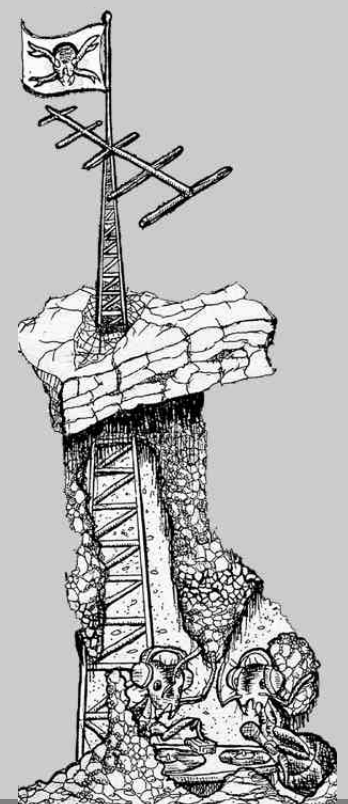
But nice little honor student style processes do not give relief to a people readied for war.

An oppressed people demand something viscerally satisfying.

War is the only answer.

It is either WAR on the soldiers of the

WAR : CONTINUED ON PG. 7



graphic credit: Beehive Collective
www.beehivecollective.org



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www.beehivecollective.org

The Maine Commons

a Publication of the Maine Independent Media Center

<http://www.maineindymedia.org>

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Maine Independent Media Center

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(Maine IMC is not based solely in Waterville, although we have a PO Box there. Our members are spread all throughout the state of Maine)

"The Maine Commons" is the new name for the paper formerly known as "The Maine Free Press." When we realized there was another progressive paper in Maine with a similar name, we decided to change it before any conflict occurred.

Founded in 2001 as a side project of the ME Independent Media Center, The Maine Commons was created to be a Maine Media Commons where diverse ideas of diverse people are free to meet and congregate. We especially focus on viewpoints and stories that have been ignored by the mainstream media, and issues of effects of corporate control on the freedom of expression. In order to increase public consciousness and understanding of the events and issues at hand.

Mission Statement

The Maine Independent Media Center (MeIMC) is a not-for-profit collective of independent media makers and journalists offering grassroots news coverage and media education for the state of Maine, and enjoying yummy food. We are not the mouthpiece of any particular political party or commercial viewpoint - rather, we are the voice of all those individuals and communities who want to get involved and report the news as they experience it. Unlike the corporate media, we do not claim complete objectivity. Subjectivity comes with any human's observation of an event. We believe in open dialogue, and placing the means of communication back in the hands of people and away from the drive of profit.

The Maine Independent Media Center works to demystify media through media literacy education and by fostering the skills and providing equipment necessary for people to be the media. We seek to become a recognized and utilized media source in the state. Maine IMC provides an interactive website at <http://maine.indymedia.org>, and an interactive Maine events calendar at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>, through which up-to-the-minute information can be posted and made available throughout the world. Acknowledging that the majority of people in Maine, and the world, do not have access to the Internet, in addition to working to make this technology more accessible and available to all interested, we focus on providing and educating people in other mediums of media, including print, in the form of the regular publication The Maine Commons, public access television and community and low power radio.

The Maine Commons Editorial Policy:

The Maine Commons will accept submissions of articles, photography, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, poetry, and graphics from any person via mail or email. Slides and undeveloped film cannot be accepted. Scanned graphics must be at a resolution of 180 dpi or higher, and should be clear in both color and grayscale. Articles should be no longer than 1400 words and must be submitted as computer files or crisply printed or typed text. The editors reserve the right to correct errors and edit down pieces that are too long. Submission does not guarantee publication. Current issues and those relevant to Maine will be given priority; ongoing projects may be held until the next publication if space is an issue. Email to editor@maineindymedia.org or send hardcopy, floppy disks or CDs to Maine Independent Media Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903. Thanks!

Free Press Helping Terrorism?

To The "editor"

I've been around. Done alot of things. Seen the Big Blue Marble from many different angles. And honestly, the culture and climate which you just promoted in your Autumn issue are what allows terrorism to thrive. Not too good, guys!

-J.C., PRESQUE ISLE

"Editor's" Note:

Honestly, our first reaction to this was excitement at the fact that we have readers in Presque Isle. However, if you read past the front page article, you must have noticed that there were several places in the paper where we specifically made our stance on terrorism clear -- we are against terrorism (that is, the killing or injuring of innocent people for ideological reasons) in all forms. We cannot emphasize that more.

Our policy of shining a light on those issues which the mainstream media ignores or slights, and empowering the common people to be the media and report on issues that are important to them is one we will stick to. This publication welcomes the expression and discussion of all respectful views - yours as well as those which you read and disagreed. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe."

EDITORS, MAINE COMMONS

Note From Away

Dear editors,

I am a Lawyer from Sri Lanka who is on a tour of the USA. On a visit to the University of Maine at Farmington, I collected the autumn issue of the Maine Free Press. I am very much impressed with your noble endeavour in presenting the alternative and correct view contrary to the news disseminated by the so-called free press of the corporate world. As you have correctly stated therein, if one were to expect peace without there being justice to everyone, it is an illusion. I am of the view that those who were behind the horrendous attacks must be identified and brought to

justice. At the same time I wish to say that the suppression of the symptom will not cure the illness. The root cause of it must be identified and eradicated. The enforcement of the SAPs by the G7 countries through the IMF and the World Bank cause great hardships on the people living in the poor third [world] countries. The suffering and the anguish of the Palestinian people who have been deprived of their right to live in their motherland, exploitation of the natural resources and the cheap labour of the countries mentioned have breached the peace that everyone is aspiring to have. Therefore your endeavour as a group working in the sole economic and military power in the world is really admirable. I represent a human rights organisation in Sri Lanka called "Lawyers For Human Rights and Development," campaigning for the protection and promotion of civil, political and socio-economic rights of the people of our country. We would like to work with you and draw inspiration from your activities. Please make our organisation a partner from a poor country in your effort to make it a global endeavour. I wish you all success in your great selfless endeavour.

-C.K., SRI LANKA

Editor's Note:

We are overjoyed that our effort has been successful in reaching and touching people not only from all walks of life in Maine, but internationally as well. Being from Sri Lanka, you have a unique perspective on the recent events in the nearby Middle East. We would be glad to consider your organization a partner in our ongoing mission for truth, and hope that we can offer you as much as you can offer us. Also keep an eye out for IMCs continually forming around the world.

EDITORS, MAINE COMMONS

Write a letter to the editors! Not all letters will be published, but we will try to respond to all as we have the time.

Email: editor@maineindymedia.org

Snail-Mail:

Maine Independent Media Center

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Opinions & Editorials

Youth Music Scene Targeted in Capitol Area

BY CAL CLARK

On the night of Sept 21st, myself and 50 or other kids attended a chemical-free concert at the Warren Library in Westbrook. It consisted of such Maine punk and hardcore acts as Carved Hope, Don't Hit Your Sister, Combat, Koalslaw, and Disaster Strikes, who drove up from Boston. After some complaints about noise and a shoe being thrown out a window, the library's neighbors, the Westbrook Police, brought six cruisers over to the location of the show. They told the organizers to close the windows and doors, which minimized the sound being heard outside. Yet only ten minutes later, we were told to vacate the premises or arrests would be made.

Following that incident, Westbrook's local paper, the American Journal, printed an article stating that the show did not have adults to supervise the teenagers, who could have been using drugs due to lack of chaperoning. In truth, there were over twenty adults at the concert, which is more than I've ever seen at the junior high dances I used to attend a few years back.

I guess kids are going to go home, play video games, watch television, or become internet junkies. Sound really healthy and fun! Unfortunately those are the sorts of things that are considered socially safe in our communities, and degenerated youth is a price that people are willing to pay to get a night of peace and quiet.

For those of you who don't know much about these hardcore/punk shows, let me give you a brief description:

What happens is that a church or hall gets rented out for a night, or in some cases, someone's backyard, garage, or basement is utilized. Four to six bands perform, mostly local acts, who play for little or no money. Sometimes an out-of-state band touring will play for a little extra, such as some food to eat and a place to stay (unlike rock stars, they usually end up sleeping on someone's floor.) These events cost from four to six dollars, dependent upon the number of bands playing, the distance they traveled, and rental cost of the location; however, at least at the shows I attend, people are not excluded because of lack of money. It is somewhat free-form, as people can do spoken word in between bands, set

up tables with political literature, as well as to advertise for other shows and create mailing lists to hear about more shows.

There are adults in a lot of these bands, but often they do not separate themselves from younger people and create this image that they are above them because of their age. They are often friends with a lot of the kids, rather than chaperones who are trying to maintain a "safe" environment. Plus, there isn't a backroom where musicians do drugs and party with groupies and people with V.I.P. passes.

There are fewer shows going on which don't comply with the demands of an authority figure's presence (paid security guards, bouncers, or parents making sure no one's making out in the corner), high rental prices, or even the lyrical content of the music. Shows that don't comply with these demands are becoming nonexistent. This is because one or two people get caught drinking a beer or smoking dope in the parking lot. There is a huge criticism of lack of authority at these gatherings, yet there is far more underage drinking and drug use at a nightclub or Civic Center show, and there, there are police who frisk people! Obviously these incidents are seemingly inevitable -- so why shut our shows down? Is it because they aren't bringing in tax money like a Civic Center show or nightclub does?

The less such celebrations as ours take place, the more we give into the pressure for us to become consumers.

The police, politicians, and business owners want us to buy their meaningless crap at the shopping malls they erect. Speaking of noise, think of how much disturbance the increase of traffic is when a chain store like Wal-Mart is built. In those places we only buy stuff, stuff that doesn't enable us to express ourselves, or to be physically or mentally interactive.

Despite some flaws, the shows I've been to demonstrate a collective effort among young adults and teenagers. And it is far more empowering than any student council, at a school where the principal or teacher has a final say, no matter what is decided by the youth. It is living proof that people can get something accomplished in a non-authoritarian manner. This situation is not applicable only to punk rock or hardcore either, it's just an

YOUTH : CONTINUED ON PG. 4

Patriotism or Nationalism?

BY JOSEPH SOBRAN

This is a season of patriotism, but also of something that is easily mistaken for patriotism; namely, nationalism.

The difference is vital. G.K. Chesterton once observed that Rudyard Kipling, the great poet of British imperialism, suffered from a "lack of patriotism." He explained: "He admires England, but he does not love her; for we admire things with reasons, but love them without reasons. He admires England because she is strong, not because she is English."

In the same way, many Americans admire America for being strong, not for being American. For them America has to be "the greatest country on earth" in order to be worthy of their devotion. If it were only the 2nd-greatest, or the 19th-greatest, or, heaven forbid, "a 3rd-rate power," it would be virtually worthless.

This is nationalism, not patriotism. Patriotism is like family love. You love your family just for being your family, not for being "the greatest family on earth" (whatever that might mean) or for being "better" than other families. You don't feel threatened when other people love their families the same way.

On the contrary, you respect their love, and you take comfort in knowing they respect yours. You don't feel your family is enhanced by feuding with other families.

While patriotism is a form of affection, nationalism, it has often been said, is grounded in resentment and rivalry; it's often defined by its enemies and traitors, real or supposed. It is militant by nature, and its typical style is belligerent.

Patriotism, by contrast, is

peaceful until forced to fight. The patriot differs from the nationalist in this respect too: he can laugh at his country, the way members of a family can laugh at each other's foibles. Affection takes for granted the imperfection of those it loves; the patriotic Irishman thinks Ireland is hilarious, whereas the Irish nationalist sees nothing to laugh about.

The nationalist has to prove his country is always right. He reduces his country to an idea, a perfect abstraction, rather than a mere home. He may even find the patriot's irreverent humor annoying.

Patriotism is relaxed. Nationalism is rigid. The patriot may loyally defend his country even when he knows it's wrong; the nationalist has to insist that he defends his country not because it's his, but because it's right.

As if he would have defended it even if he hadn't been born to it! The nationalist talks as if he just "happens," by sheer accident, to have been a native of the greatest country on earth -- in contrast to, say, the pitiful Belgian or Brazilian. Because the patriot and the nationalist often use the same words, they may not realize that they use those words in very different senses.

The American patriot assumes that the nationalist loves this country with an affection like his own, failing to perceive that what the nationalist really loves is an abstraction -- "national greatness," or something like that. The American nationalist, on the other hand, is apt to be suspicious of the patriot, accusing him of insufficient zeal, or even "anti-Americanism."

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Website Access, the Bleak Hole of Communication

BY NORM MELDRUM

If you're an IT person, or an everyday web user, you have probably heard of web accessibility. You may have heard of the new Section 508 standards, or about Bobby approved sites. It's also likely that you do not know what all of this means, or how it affects the user who has a disability.

Web sites communicate in two ways - through sound and through vision. Thank the gods, they cannot reach out and touch you! Web sites also fail to communicate in the same two ways.

The first way they can fail to communicate is by having sound information that a hearing impaired person cannot access. Examples of this are sites that open with theme music, and sites that provide information by using sound files. If you're building a web site you should always include a description of sound events. For example, if your site opens with a funeral dirge (I can think of more than a few sites that should!), you need to add a prominent note that there is a certain piece of music playing. If your site contains videos, or sound files, they also need to contain accompanying text. An important note here is that the text needs to be either verbatim or accurately reflect the sound information. Second rate access is not access!

People with vision impairments access websites in various ways. The ones that I know the most about are screen (or web) readers and magnification programs. Magnification programs need to be able to control the size of the print (font) and the colors on the screen. These are both web developer issues, if the font size cannot be controlled by the web browser, or if the background and text colors are chosen by the developer, rather than by the web browser, then the site will not be accessible to some people. The fix is simple - Don't do those things! A quick test for the user is to use the text size button on your browser to try and change the text size. If you go from small to large and the size doesn't noticeably change, the site is not accessible.

Now the issue of people who use screen readers. This group consists of

people who are blind, have low vision, are dyslexic, or just plain like to be read to. These people use various screen readers to access their computers. (A note here: A screen reader reads whatever is on the screen; a web page reader only reads html, or web, files.) There is a simple test that will show you if a site is accessible or not - it's fun too.

The Test

Open your favorite web page. Sit, or stand, somewhere where you can't see the screen. Have a friend read the site using the following rules:

1. Read from left to right and top to bottom in the same way that you would read newspaper columns. You may not skip ahead; you must read each word with the same inflection.
2. When you come to a link you may say 'link,' or use a different voice in speaking the link. If the link is a button, you must place the mouse over it and see if text appears on the screen. If no text (called an alt tag) appears, you must skip the link without letting the person know that you've skipped something.
3. When you get to an image again place the mouse over it and see if text pops up. If nothing happens you skip the image without telling the person. If text appears you must read it exactly as it appears.
4. If the page has frames you must stop at the end of each frame and make the person guess why you have stopped before you continue. (A frame is like a page within a page. The most common example is that the links will be in one frame and the text will be in another and will have a separate scroll bar.)
5. If you decide to continue the experiment by going to another page you must start reading from the beginning again (Or, read backwards, if you dare!) until you come to the link that you want to use. The person must then shout, "Click," before you have moved on to the next word.

Have fun, and welcome to the world of web access!



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YOUTH : CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

example that goes along with police shutting down raves, imposing curfews, and businesses telling kids that they must buy something or leave.

What's going to happen in the future years to come? The teenagers become adults, investing in the American dream, experiencing days of obedience to a boss in a factory or cubicle, and for what? Computers, cell phones, pagers, televisions, cars, makeup, and brand name clothing? Or maybe they'll become the ones who don't make it to adulthood, with suicide, drug overdoses, and shooting rampages that give them a life sentence.

Perhaps certain undergrounds

like punk rock will give people the idea that it is possible to be responsible without authority figures, existing institutions, or institutions at all. Perhaps we will work together more in the future, and when we do work, our desires will actually be met. I'm not certain specifically how we will be able to work together, as we know life only within a hierarchical structure, but I am positive that I don't want to be told when to have fun, where to have fun, or how I can have fun, because there is nothing entertaining about the synthetic and involuntary life that they offer.

-CAL CLARK

Citizen Rhames: Traitor or Patriot?

BY ED DEMOCRACY

Richard Rhames is a pioneer in Maine's public access cable TV community. He has been organizing for public access cable TV since the 1970's when the cable industry was in the process of negotiating the conditions of its access to communities nationwide. Richard is a farmer and a City Councilor in Biddeford, Maine.

His vigorous exercise of his own free speech has made him a lightning rod for those in Biddeford politics who are made uncomfortable by honest dialogue -- and ponytails. Even before Richard Rhames ever opened his mouth in Biddeford, his independent streak is made obvious by his grungy (meant in the cool "Seattle grunge rock" sense of the term) ballcap and clothes, dark horn-rimmed glasses, beard and long ponytail. Former Mayor and current fellow City Councilor Gratello has long found a convenient scapegoat and likely "pinko-commie" in the form of Richard Rhames. However, in the current environment of frayed nerves and circle-the-wagons war fever, the tendency to scapegoat and marginalize the already marginalized

can be too much to resist for some, says Richard Rhames.

In this interview, we get a frank and candid perspective not only on the threats to freedom of speech, past and present, but also an illustration of the quip, "all politics is local," made famous by former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill. We will get a glimpse of how free speech can be stifled outright if it interferes with the global politics of the "new world order," and how free speech can be warped, twisted, exaggerated, and modified to suit the local political aims of the old world order.

The Biddeford Public Access Cable censorship story has been covered quite extensively by media all over Maine for the last few months. On one level it is a fairly straightforward story: controversial cable TV hosts are squelched by arbitrary and capricious regulation by the Biddeford City Council; enter the MCLU; enter statewide public and media interest and sustained attention; exit frontal assault by local political hacks on the

RHAMES : CONTINUED ON PG. 5

**RHAMES : CONTINUED FROM PG. 4**

most basic human and American freedoms: speech. The basic story seems to be working itself out through the system of courts of public opinion and courts of law. One of the cable hosts who claimed infringement of her freedom of speech on the narrow basis of political disagreement brought suit to protect her freedom of speech. The courts are hearing the case and the Biddeford City Council has taken the issue underground.

On another level, since September 11th, the story takes another twist. When asked about the media coverage of his part of the story, Richard Rhames, replies, "What coverage? There hasn't been any reporting of my story." He says that it's a long story but it centers around "unpatriotic" and "anti-American" statements attributed to him which he says he never made. He states unequivocally that he is not anti-American. The combination of militant, fundamentalist, extremist, theocratic rhetoric along with long-festered ideological bigotry and narrow local power struggles in an election season can make the anthrax scare look like a day at the beach. We are not talking about the Taliban or Afghanistan, we are talking about Biddeford, Maine.

The charges of anti-American statements by Richard Rhames stem from the "National Day of Prayer and Remembrance," declared by President Bush following the September 11th attack. At the Biddeford service, local religious and political figures assembled. Also in attendance was a man with a beard, a ponytail, a video camera, and a question. This man, Rhames, asked, "On this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, who is being prayed to and who is being remembered?" The reaction to this question created such a "repellent" atmosphere that Rhames said he put his camera down and just listened.

As he listened, he observed that no mainstream Christian churches were represented, nor were there any rabbis, Buddhists, or Muslims. He says all he saw were "reactionary Christians, right-wing extremists, and the Salvation Army." First, Biddeford Mayor Donna Dion gave a "basic patriotism and citizenship" speech. Next, was a speaker who claimed that, "What happened in New York City on September 11th was a sign of the end times ... a message from the Bible." Rhames drew a direct and ominous parallel between the military and theocratic rhetoric he was hearing in Biddeford, with the war propaganda we hear from Osama Bin

Laden. The common message seems to be, "There are no humans involved here, this is God's plan." He felt that all the speakers there that day were sure that, "God is on our side."

None of the speakers seemed to be remembering anyone who had been directly affected by September 11th. Next, the man with the ponytail spoke about people and things that he thought should be remembered. Then he realized that he was at the wrong meeting. He thought he was at the local gathering for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance called for by President Bush. Actually, he was at another meeting he says was also called for by President Bush. As described by Richard Rhames, one might gather that it should be called a "National Day of Prayer and Remembrance of Why God Wants Us to Kick Afghanistan's Ass Back to the Big Bang so They Can Start All Over and See if They Can Get it Right This Time!" It occurred to Rhames that, under the banner of solemn reflection, a nationwide frenzy of war-mongering rhetoric was occurring.

For his honest exercise of free speech, Rhames was featured in a column by M.D. Harmon of the Portland Press Herald. Harmon, the right-wing member of the Blethen Maine Newspapers Editorial Board cited Richard Rhames and Congresswoman Barbara Lee of California, the only member of Congress to vote against the anti-terrorism package demanded by President Bush, as examples of unpatriotic and anti-American subversives. What did he say to deserve such dishonorable mention?

Rhames was appalled that not one speaker recognized the suffering of the thousands of victims of the September 11th attack. So he was inspired by their war-frenzy rhetoric to recall the last Bush war: the Gulf War. Anyone remember the "New World Order" speech by Bush's father? Richard Rhames does. He told the gathering about someone to remember: John Schuchardt. During the Gulf War, during the bombing, President Bush was attending church in Kennebunkport and John Schuchardt was in the same church. He was hauled out of the church by several Secret Service agents. Pictures of him flailing and struggling and sounds of him screaming and yelling made national and world news.

Richard Rhames gives us the story behind the story. John Schuchardt drove up from Massachusetts to hold signs against the bombing of Iraq. He

had been involved in the very first Ploughshares action in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania where they hammered in the nosecones of some missiles. But he was not in Kennebunkport to hammer nosecones. He was there to hammer home the truth. Himself an Episcopalian, he knew of the "period of intercession" at the beginning of each service when attendees may address the minister to voice concerns. John Schuchardt rose and calmly spoke about the people and children of Iraq being bombed as they spoke. The minister thanked him and said he would be addressing that later in the service. He never did. When John Schuchardt interrupted the service to ask when the bombing would be addressed he was plucked from the pew and removed by Secret Service agents as the congregation sang God Bless America which, Richard Rhames notes, is not a religious hymn and is not in the hymnal. Rhames reminds us that all we saw and heard was the flailing and screaming man being removed from the church.

Rhames does not hold George Bush solely responsible for the destruction of the civilian infrastructure of Iraq or the deaths of 5,000 to 6,000 children each month. He holds himself and every other American responsible. Rhames says that we, the people, are responsible because only we, the people, can stop it. "It grieves me and it has grieved me for 10 years to be a part of a nation that does this sort of thing," says Rhames. This, he says, is the quote they love to misquote and the quote they love to hate. This is the kind of thing that has made Richard Rhames something of an urban legend in Biddeford, Maine -- that and his ponytail. This is also the kind of thing that gets the Biddeford rumor mill cranked up to full capacity.

"I never said I am ashamed to be an American," said Rhames. Specific policies make him uncomfortable, he says, and he is constantly working to get his fellow citizens to join him in exercising their freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in changing those policies. If actions speak louder than words then no one professes their love for America more loudly than Richard Rhames. He suggests that many words have become meaningless. When words are used without action to fill them with substance they become hollow. When words are used without action to put them to the test and prove their meaning they invite a challenge to their legitimacy. Rhames believes that the highest office in the land is that of Citizen.

As a polar opposite, in both theory and

practice, to former Mayor Gratello, it would come as no surprise to learn that Gratello often feels challenged by Rhames. During a local election season in which Rhames is running for reelection to the Biddeford City Council and the former Mayor is now a fellow City Councilor, things can get ugly. Rhames says, "They are trying to fuel a Jihad against me, to defeat me in the council race." Is this a case of killing two birds with one stone? Or is it killing one bird with two stones?

It seems that some folks have been trying to hit Richard Rhames with the stone of long-standing local political conflict. Having failed at that, the stone of anti-Americanism in an atmosphere of fever-pitched patriotism provided another shot. Perhaps it was too difficult to resist pouring the gasoline of patriotism on the eternal flame of local politics. If these tactics are successful, they could remove Richard Rhames from the Biddeford City Council and from the local Public Access Cable TV system.

But Rhames is a winter soldier like those who marched in the blood-stained snow from Valley Forge with George Washington. "The public citizen needs to be engaged ... to cower and shrink is cowardly," says Rhames. So he will march on bearing the standard of public access cable and alternative media of the people, by the people, and for the people. Citizen Rhames warns of a conflict looming on another front which he calls, "the gentle war between public access and community television." Within the cable access television community these two factions represent sharply different approaches to media. The public access people are usually treated like Cinderella by her step-sisters the community television crowd. Public access is media of the people, by the people, and for the people. Community television is media of the local elites, by the local elites, and for the local elites.

Didn't most of the founders and American Revolutionaries wear ponytails? OK, so some of them wore pig-tails. But enough of them wore ponytails that we can still publish this, and for the moment, Richard Rhames is still on the Biddeford City Council and on the air in Biddeford. If Richard Rhames is not the George Washington of the American Revolution in public access independent media, then he is at least the Patrick Henry, or, how about a Sam Adams? Cheers, Citizen Rhames! Keep doin' what you're doin'!



Layoff Index

of jobs lost at major corporations since the September 11th attacks.

Current as of our printing date, November 8th.

(adapted from Forbes.com)

Adobe Systems	150
Air Canada	9,000
Alcan	2,600
Alcatel	14,538
AMD	2,300
American Airlines	20,000
American Standard	1,000
Applied Materials	2,000
AT&T	2,400
Atmel	2,500
BEA Systems	300
Bear Stearns	830
BellSouth	3,000
Bethlehem Steel	2,000
BF Goodrich	2,400
Boeing	20,000
Bristol-Myers Squibb	2,000
Cable & Wireless	400
Cap Gemini Ernst & Young	600
Cendant	26
Coca-Cola Enterprises	2,000
Computer Associates	900
Corning	4,870
Credit Suisse Group	2,000
Dana	11,250
Delta Air Lines	15,000
Eastman Kodak	3,500
Electronic Arts	200
EMC	1,600
Emerson	4,000
Exelon	450
FleetBoston Financial	300
General Electric	4,040
General Mills	459
Genuity	990
Georgia-Pacific	119
Goldman Sachs	300
Goodyear	1,400
Hershey Foods	400
Honeywell	3,250
i2 Technologies	1,000
International Paper	142
Interpublic	15
Level 3 Communications	750
Lexmark International	1,320
Lockheed Martin	360
LSI Logic	600
McDonald's	500
McGraw-Hill	39
McLeodUSA	1,600
Motorola	7,000
Nordstrom	1,600
Nortel Networks	20,000
Northwest Airlines	10,000
Omnicom Group	20
ONI Systems	125
Phelps Dodge	1,400
PSINet	476
Reuters Group	500
Rockwell Automation	750
Sara Lee	230
SBC Communications	6,500
Sears	4,900
Siemens	7,000
Sprint	6,000
Starwood Hotels & Resorts	10,000
Sun Microsystems	3,900
Swissair Group	9,000
Sycamore Networks	240
T Rowe Price	180
TDK	8,800
Textron	2,500
TMP Worldwide	1,250
TRW	2,400
Unisys	3,000
United Airlines	20,000
United Technologies	5,000
US Airways	11,000
USX-US Steel	150
Verizon Communications	170
Viacom	450
Weyerhaeuser	110
XO Communications	600

... and more to come!

CRISIS : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

In October, U.S. businesses laid off more workers than during any other month in the last 21 years. By the time you read this paper, over 1 million people in the U.S. will have lost their jobs since September 11. This is the equivalent of every resident over 18 in the state of Maine -- EVERY resident of Maine over 18, not solely those who are currently employed -- having been laid off since September 11th. Many more uncounted are working reduced hours.

The biggest layoffs occurred in the airline industry, where over 100,000 people's jobs have been eliminated. Yet even prior to the terror attacks on New York and Washington, the airline industry was suffering from the impact of the economic slowdown, high fuel costs and a sharp decline in business travel. Losses of \$1.5 billion were already anticipated for 2001. Well before the events of September 11, airline executives were working out plans for drastic cost-cutting measures, including the elimination of thousands of jobs.

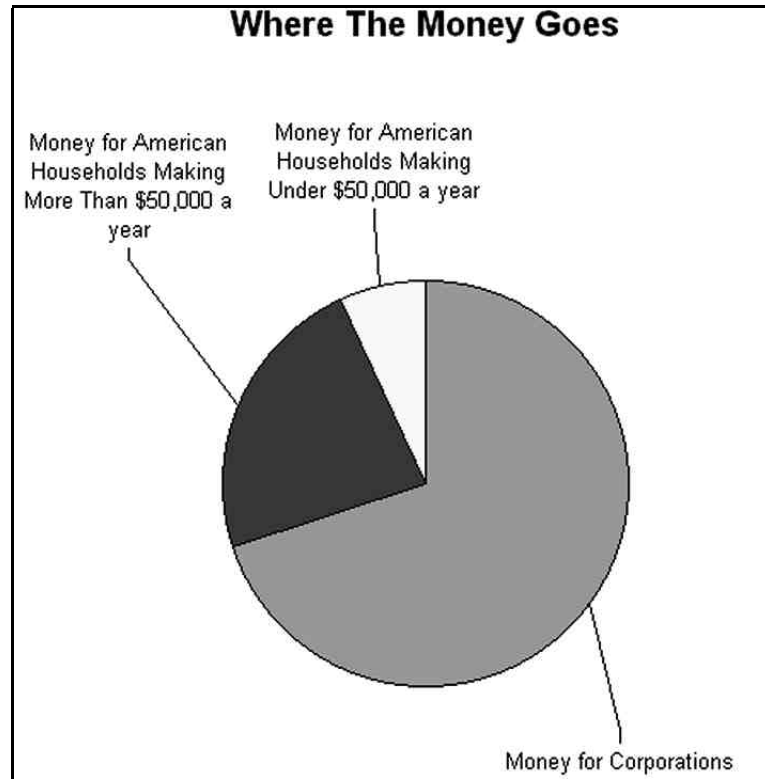
Soon after September 11th, there were urgent calls for emergency aid to go to the airline industries. The airlines have already received a \$15 billion bailout package, and they are lobbying for more. Yet there have been no calls by these industries or the government for emergency aid to support the laid-off workers or to help the communities that will be devastated by the job cuts. No politician of either party has so much as suggested that a bailout be contingent on a rescinding of the layoffs. Nor is there a demand that, in return for billions in public funds, the airline executives cut their multimillion-dollar compensation packages, or accept restrictions on future profit margins.

In fact, while the 11,000 workers US Airways is discarding will at best receive several months of unemployment benefits before losing their incomes and medical insurance, the company's three top executives are guaranteed a \$45 million severance package if they leave by November 12. That's more than many states are receiving to help their whole populations of laid-off people.

The new bill HR 3090 is an expansion of this policy - bailing out and giving money to corporations, while ignoring the working people who are losing jobs, they are

told, as a result of the events of September 11th. Corporations are already paying significantly less in taxes than individual Americans. In 1998, corporations paid \$3.3 billion, down from \$8.1 billion in 1990. Individual Americans, on the other hand, paid \$5 billion in 1998, up from \$830 million in 1990.

HR 3090 would provide permanent --



and in some cases retroactive -- tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals. \$68,526,000,000 will go to corporations and businesses over the next ten years (many of which, such as IBM and GE, have remained prosperous even after September 11th); another \$70.5 billion will go to the richest ten percent of taxpayers. Only \$12 billion - 12 percent - will actually go to help newly unemployed people.

The tax cuts and benefits for corporations in this bill exist in a number of forms:

There are provisions for accelerated depreciation deductions for corporations, which would allow companies to accelerate the amount they write off against income for new equipment bought in the next three years. The allowance for these write-offs has been 15 percent. Under the bill, it would rise to 30 percent in the year of purchase. This will result in a loss \$39 billion in corporate taxes in one year - that same amount of money could more than quadruple the Centers for Disease Control budget, extend unemployment benefits for three million people for 13 weeks, federalize airport security with no ticket price increases, and modernize Amtrak (United for a Fair Economy) Increased depreciation could have a

serious effect on states. According to Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, most states follow federal rules on write-offs to calculate their own corporate income taxes. According to his figures, 44 states and the District of Columbia would lose an average \$5 billion each in corporate and individual income tax revenues in each of the three years the plan is in effect.

"Since they have to balance their budgets in recession, nearly every dollar that states lose as a result of this federal tax cut would have to be made up as either tax increases or program cuts," Mr. Greenstein said. "If a depreciation is in the package, it ought to include an offsetting relief to the states." The provisions for state money in this bill would not come close to equalling the money lost as a result of this provision.

There are also incentives for large multinational businesses to shelter their profits through off-shore tax shelters. The bill would renew and make permanent

an expiring current-law tax shelter for multinational corporations, most notably General Electric and the major auto companies, which allows them to shift taxable profits off-shore through manipulations of interest payments. The estimated cost for this over the next ten years is \$21 billion.

There is also a capital gains tax cut which would cut capital gains taxes by \$10 billion in 2002 alone. The majority of that cut, \$7.5 billion, would go to the richest 1% of Americans. In September, the Congressional Research Service noted that "a capital gains tax cut appears the least likely of any permanent tax cut to stimulate the economy in the short run." Dal LaMagna, CEO of Tweezerman Corp. in Glen Cove, N.Y., adds, "We've had nine interest rate cuts this year and still nobody's investing. Why should manufacturers like my company react any differently to tax incentives? What drives businesses to expand is demand for our products, so what we need is a tax and spending package that puts money into the hands of people most likely to spend it." In other words, for this economy to be active there need to be many individual people able to make purchases and investments, not just a tiny minority of very rich people and corporations.

Maine IMC Meeting Sunday, Dec. 2nd. Location TBA. Email or write for details.

**CRISIS : CONTINUED FROM PG. 6**

Finally, the bill contains a provision to repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax (AMT) on corporations. The AMT was enacted in 1986 to insure that profitable corporations pay at least something in income taxes, no matter how many tax breaks they otherwise

would be able to take advantage of. At the time, there was agreement that it was grossly unfair to permit major corporations to shift most or all of their tax obligations onto ordinary individual taxpayers. Now, with the repeal of this tax, corporations will receive refunds from 1986 up until the present, for a total of about \$25 billion in tax rebates. In order

to gain public acceptance for this bill and push it through the Senate, provisions for \$12 billion to help working and unemployed people have been included. However, even this comparatively small amount is not necessarily of direct benefit to any people who have lost jobs since September 11th. The unemployment funds go to the states, which can opt to spend them or save them. The guidelines are not in place to insure that this money directly goes to the American workers most economically hurt.

The State of Maine will be receiving just under \$52 million of these funds. In other words, the unemployed people of Maine have a chance at receiving 1/2000th of the money to be gained from this economic stimulus bill. Louis Gerstner, Jr., CEO of IBM (which is receiving about one and a half billion dollars thanks to this bill) personally gets paid over twice that amount in one year.

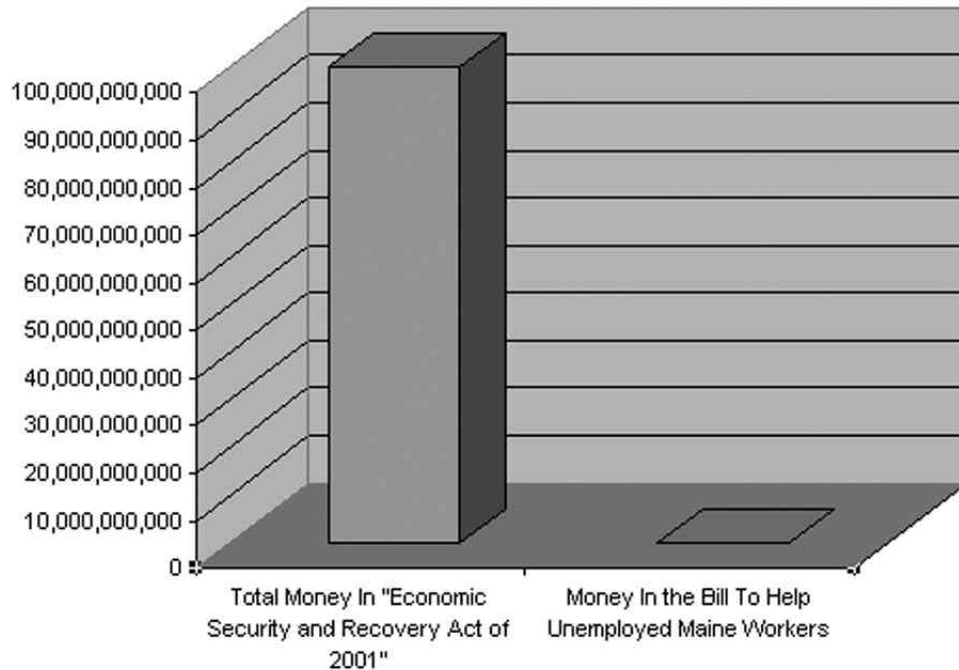
"The priorities of this stimulus package are upside-down," states Richard Perl, of Pacific Partners International Investments in New York City. "I'm embarrassed and offended. With so many in my city grieving, digging through rubble,

and losing their jobs, my government should be asking me to pitch in, not handing me a bonus. The priorities of this stimulus package are upside-down. It is not just ineffective, it's unpatriotic."

There is still a chance that changes can be made to this supposed "economic stimulus" bill before it passes in the Senate. The money for this bill has to be coming from somewhere -- either the government is printing increased amounts of money, hence devaluing the dollar, or the money is coming out of the pockets of individual taxpayers -- there is not a budget surplus providing these funds. If no changes are made to this bill, it will be truly a blow to any faith that people might have in the American government, if that government uses the events of September 11th to fill the bankrolls of corporations, while at the same time calling for all individuals to make sacrifices, justifying the elimination of the jobs of hundreds of thousands of hard-working people in the U.S.

-HILLARY LISTER

THANKS TO "UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY"
FOR SOURCE MATERIAL HELP

**WAR : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

system of institutionalized-assembly-line-ized-robotized-desolate-commercialized-mega-mammon-controlled society which occupies our learning centers, our media, our capitols, or WAR on the World (as directed by the soldiers who occupy all these institutions of our lives.)

War or War.

In psychology we call that an avoidance-avoidance situation.

And boy have we Avoided it. For good reason. War sucks.

Contrary to rumor, I am not a warmonger. I'm not a lover of violence. I have guns and ammo, but I am a very nice lady who has no faith, no beliefs, no ideals. Only a continuous big question, and a deep love for the human critter, an unconditional love. "Radical Forgiveness" the Reverend Billy calls it. But with that kinda love comes some awful truths.

God, The Spirit, Mother Nature, Earth, Mars, the Moon, the Universe are not about Love and Peace ... Love and Peace are Mammal Desires, Mammal Moments. God and Mother Nature are, as I understand, something far beyond understanding, far more complex than we created-lings will ever imagine.

The real job of revolutionaries is to

bring about radical change within the limits of Mother Nature and God and the Spirit and the laws of Gravity and various other forces. We waste our time when we try to fix Mother Nature. We get stalled on ideals.

Ideals are natural too. But when they are made by people who won't recognize Mother Nature's boundaries, she is going to laugh at them, and the thousands and thousands of working class people will laugh too.

Rage won't go away but it can be rechanneled fairly easily by those with the resources.

Rage won't go away with the words "Think Peace."

When you are oppressed, Peace means jail or drugs or drunk. Or maybe suicide. You understand being restrained. Or zoned out. But you cannot understand an abstract peace.

There has to be war.

Our population has been many human bombs ready to go off, bombs with faces painted on them ... each of us a bomb ... ready ... set. Those who offered to light our fuses have won and we feel the great relief of exploded rage.

The Peace talkers have lost.

Please, even if it is against your personal nature to want war ... and I understand that ... but please, at least look the wicked truth in the eye, face it square on.

Although I see danger in pacifism (in Pacifying), I respect Pacifists and envy them. I envy all people who believe in an ism. I see the gleam in the eyes of all people who have hope.

And I'm not trying to bash Pacifists. I am pleading with pacifists, with all active citizens to understand that certain things are in the System's ballpark right now.

Most flagwavers are not people who stare long hours at grey print. Their gifts are in other things, being wonderful and loving parents, making things grow or float or fly, building and repairing, and creating communities as perfectly tight and safe as a hornets nest is to the hornets. Them I also envy.

Anyway, they are not reading about government corruption and impericalism. They are starting at TV.

Please consider this idea. Don't use the word "Peace" any more. What you really mean anyway, is justice and fairness and so forth, right?

How about instead you say "WAR!!!" We all make flags which say "WAR ON CORPORATE POWER!!!" and under-

neath in small print "No more special rights to Corporations."

Or this: "WAR ON THE CORPORATE ALIENS FROM THE COUNTRY OF MEGA-MAMMON!!!" and under that in small print "Cut the Corporate Jugular!!!"

These can be small flags and large flags. How about Hunter Orange (a favorite with most Mainers) in red trim with dark green letters and the silhouette of a guy holding a big knife (for cutting the corporate jugular).

This way, we do not oppose the average Mainer, but we introduce the idea of the other enemy, the one which is the one which stands in the way of all justice and fairness, that entity which provokes and manipulates all the worst horrors in and to humans everywhere.

Big flags we can hang from our doors. We can even have 52 black stars somewhere on this flag. We run around yelling "WAR!" and pointing at our flags.

Some people will ask questions. And then as allies we can chat about our fears in common., There won't be Them versus Us. There will be a certain kind of unity. Our Rage Bond. PLEASE CONSIDER.

-REPRINTED FROM CAROLYN CHUTE'S
2ND MAINE MILITA NEWSLETTER "FRINGE"



Maine Solidarity Calendar

November 15 - December 15, 2001 (updated at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

Thursday November 15th, 2001

Maine Council of Churches Dinner
"Achievements in Restorative Justice."
772-1918, MeCChurches@aol.com

Medicaid & Cub Care Eligibility Training
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Brunswick, ME
621-0677, mmlmacc@mint.net

"Sustainable Development & Penjajawoc Marsh" Discussion
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM
Memorial Union, UMaine, Orono
By members of BACORD.
581-3860

"STAR WARS RETURNS" Movie
6:00 PM
Rockland Public Library
Peace and Justice Film & discussion series.
Film is about the missile defense shield.
Mark Elwin, 594-9575

True Media Meeting
6:30 PM
PPAC, 100 Oak St, Portland, ME
Open to all interested in making media.
775-2900 ext 3, ch2ppac@hotmail.com

Friday November 16th, 2001

"Future of Human Rights in the Balkans"
7:30 PM
Olin Science Building, Colby College
Waterville, ME
832-6863

Saturday November 17th

Orono Farmer's Market
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Dock and Picnic Area, UMaine, Orono

Stop the Cycle of Violence/ A Day of Solidarity with the People of the World
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
The Streets & UU Church, Kennebunkport,
March, rally at Bush compound, teach-ins.
David, 967-2390, kubiak@nancho.net

Sunday November 18th

Youth Activism Gathering - Planning Meeting
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
283 Water St, 3rd Floor, Augusta, ME
588-0347, sterren@brandeis.edu.

Tuesday, November 20

"Just the Facts: Feminine Health"
6:30 - 8:00 p.m
McCain Rooms at A.R. Gould Memorial
Hospital in Presque Isle
(207) 76-WOMEN or (207) 769-6636

Peace Week 2001, Campus Wide, UMaine

Friday November 23rd
Buy Nothing Day
International day to reduce consumerism.
www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd/

Sunday, November 24th

Youth Campfire Collective Meeting
Noon
Farmington Area
breannaannaerb@justice.com or call 649-5980 after 7pm or on weekends.

Tuesday, November 27th

Teen Pregnancy & Birth Rates in Maine
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
237 North Stevens Hall, UMaine, Orono
Women's Studies Fall Lunch Series.
581-1228

Friday November 30th

"King Leopold and the Belgian Congo"
7:00 PM
170 Park St., Bangor, ME
Peace and Justice Film & discussion series.
942-9343, peacectr@gwi.net

Saturday December 1st

ME Greens Fall Assembly
Blue Goose Rt 1 in Northport
Forums, workshops & dance. RSVP.
236-0732, tims@maine.greens.org.

World AIDS Day
Maine AIDS Alliance.
621-2924

15th Annual PICA Auction
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
UU Church, 120 Park St, Bangor
Auction for Bangor's Sister City Carasque,
El Salvador.
947-4203, info@pica.ws

SOLO Potluck
5pm
Durham Quaker Meeting House.
Single Older Lesbians Organization
footloos@gwi.net

Presque Isle Light Parade
7 p.m.

Inanna : Sisters in Rhythm
7:30 pm
UMaine Fort Kent Campus Center.
Women's drumming group performance.

Sunday, December 2nd

Maine Indymedia Media Center Meeting
Location To Be Announced
editor@maineindymedia.org or call 649-5980 after 7pm or on weekends.

Thursday December 6th

Medicaid & Cub Care Eligibility Training
Caribou, ME
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
621-0677, mmlmacc@mint.net

Saturday, December 8

Bare Bears of Maine Gathering
Sat 7:30PM-12AM
South Portland.
Jim at barebearsmaine@yahoo.com

Monday, December 10

Gay Men's Potluck Dinner
6:15PM
UU Church (169 Pleasant Street) Auburn

"What's New in Birth Control?"
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
McCain Rooms at A.R. Gould Memorial
Hospital in Presque Isle

Wednesday December 12th

Medicaid & Cub Care Eligibility Training
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Lewiston, ME
621-0677, mmlmacc@mint.net

Saturday December 15th

Benefit Concert For Prevention Works
8:00 PM
Bates College Chapel, Lewiston, ME
Holiday Concert with Schooner Fare to
benefit Prevention Works.
786-4697, prevntnwrks@gwi.net

Ongoing Events

Mondays

Youth Adelantando Meeting
5:15 - 7:30
170 Park Street, Bangor
947-4203

Greater Bangor NOW Chapter Meeting
6-8 p.m. - 3rd Monday each month.
Mabel Wadsworth Health Center, Bangor.
989-3306(eve) or 947-5337 (days).

Clean Clothes Campaign Meeting
6 - 8pm - 1st Monday each month
170 Park Street, Bangor
947-4203

Breast feeding. Is it for Me?

6-8pm - 3rd Monday of each month.
Houlton Regional Hospital
Discussion on advantages of breastfeeding,
preparation, impact on family; topics rotate.
Kathy 532-9471 ext. 130

Wednesdays

El Salvador Sister City Meeting
5:30 - 7:30 - Normally each 2nd & 4th Wed
170 Park Street, Bangor
Please call PICA 947-4203

Heart Circles Meeting
6:30 - 8 PM -2nd Wednesday each month -
hiatus after Dec 12th.
Lewiston
Support group for GLBTQ men of all ages.
786-4697, acla@gwi.net.

REEL Men Gathering
7P- 10 PM - 3rd Wednesday each month.
Lewiston
Social gathering/movie night for G/B men
men & G/B identified transmen of all ages.
Sean 786-4697, acla@gwi.net

Thursdays

MAIN Meeting
9am-noon - 2nd Thursday of each month
Equal Justice Ctr. 126 Sewall St. Augusta
Maine Association of Interdependent
Neighborhoods for low-income concerns.
Judy Guay, 947-4371, krjuay@imfi.net

Central Maine Outright Meeting
7PM - Every Thursday
11 King Street, Augusta.
Drop-in program for GLBTQ and allied
youth ages 22 and under.
621-6393
centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com.

Northern Lambda Nord Meeting
6:30 PM
2nd Thursday each month.
All interested persons invited to attend.
GLBT Community Services Ctr Northern
Maine, 658 South Main Street, Caribou.
498-2088 or 800-468-2088.

Fridays

Portland Outright Meeting
7:30 - 9:30 PM - Every Friday
832 Congress Street, Portland
(207) 828-6560; toll-free (888) 567-7600
for young people calling long distance in-
state. outright@outright.org.

Coastal Outright Meeting.
7- 9:30 PM - 2nd and 4th Fridays.
Rockland
For GLBTQ youth in Knox, Lincoln &
Waldo counties, ages 22 and under.
800-207-4064, coastaloutright@yahoo.com.



Hospital Director Speaks Out in Favor of Universal Healthcare

BY ED DEMOCRACY

Howard Buckley, Republican and CEO of Mercy Hospital in Portland is for Universal Single Payer Healthcare. At a forum on October 25, sponsored by the Portland Democratic City Committee, Southern Maine Labor Party, Portland Green Independents, Maine People's Alliance, Maine AFL-CIO, and Peace Action Maine, Mr. Buckley delivered a scathing indictment of our current for-profit healthcare system.

He was the lead speaker on a distinguished panel which included Dr. Richard Herman, MD, Dottie Melanson, RN, Maine's Democratic National Committeewoman, Rep. Paul Volenik, Legislative Sponsor of LD 1277, Tammy Groaton, Co-Director of the Maie People's Alliance, and Mike Saxl, Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives.

Howard Buckley supports Portland's advisory referendum and he supports a nationwide system of universal single payer healthcare. He believes that healthcare should be a right and not a privilege as it is now. "It grieves me to know that there are 140 or 150 or 160,000 people in Maine without insurance in Maine, and 40-45 Million in the US ... who would have the same access that I do," said Buckley.

"When healthcare administrators get together, we talk about 3 things: quality, access, and cost," Buckley says. He says that while quality is up, so is cost, and access is down. He states matter-of-factly that, "when you or your employer pay a premium, 15-25% comes off the top for administration, overhead, profit, and payment to stockholders...the rest is called 'medical loss' in the insurance industry." Further he states, "if they can slow or stop payments to you for healthcare, they make money; if they can prevent extensive care, they make money; if confusion about rules increases, they make money; if customer service goes down, they make money."

"I do not see our present healthcare system getting any better than it is today. I hope in my lifetime that I will see a system that has rhyme and reason to it and that the United States, the greatest country in the world, can have a health system that we are proud of and that emulates the health system in every other industrialized country in the world," said Mr. Buckley.

The other panelists talked about legislative battles of the past and those upcoming in March 2002 when a committee established to study ways of financing LD 1277 the Maine Universal Healthcare bill which was passed earlier this year, will deliver its final report. After that report comes out it will become a legislative battle to choose among financing options presented by the committee.

Also discussed was Portland's Advisory Referendum on Universal Single Payer Healthcare. Anthem-Blue Cross has spent almost \$400,000 to defeat a non-binding, local referendum. The panelists warned that whatever they will spend on this they will spend many many time as much to defeat a statewide system in the legislature.

Update: The universal health care referendum passed on November 6 in Portland, overcoming an expensive campaign against it by insurance companies. Nearly 52 percent of voters supported the referendum. Just over 48 percent voted against it, according to unofficial tallies. The vote is non-binding, meaning that the City Council is not required to approve any of the referendum's proposals, such as approving a city resolution supporting universal health care. Still, the victory is seen as a major step toward implementing universal health care in Maine.

Supports contend it is the most cost-efficient way to meet a moral obligation to provide health insurance to all residents. According to Tammy Groaton, advocate of the referendum and co-director of the Maine People's Alliance, "[The victory] sends a loud sound of support that we're sick and tired of health care that does not provide quality, that does not provide access and is unaffordable."

Groups Forming

The Guerilla Theater Project, a creative, public and politically-based theater performed by activists in order to education the public and gain media exposure around issue of peace & social justice, wants you! If you are interested using theater to get attention for a wide range of social issues call Peace Action Maine at 772-0680.

Animal Rights group starting - looking for people intrested in helping out, especially in Western or Central maine. All welcome. For more info e-mail Breanna at ratdefense@justice.com or write: AR c/o H. Lister P.O. Box 1729 Waterville, ME 04903

Maine Independent Media Center Current Projects

- **This print publication you are reading right now** (The Maine Commons) published 8-12 times a year, providing exclusive news & commentary throughout the state.

- **Collaboration with community radio stations** such as WERU, and public access television stations such as Portland Public Access Center, & projects like True Media, to broaden the reach of independent media and work with already existing Independent Media groups in the state.

- **Continual updating of our interactive website** with current events of relevance to Maine people and communities at <http://www.maineindymedia.org>. We work to make sure as much as our software as possible utilizes open source code. We are also working on making this site as accessible as possible to people with slow internet connections or older computers, and to people with disabilities.

- **Interactive web-based calendar** of upcoming events for use by all non-commercial Maine groups at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>.

- **Coverage of events** throughout the state and beyond.

Maine Independent Media Center Upcoming Projects

The following are projects we hope to implement soon, but are dependent upon receiving grant money, donations, and volunteers.

- **Workshops:** We plan to organize workshops on media literacy and how to use the tools of the media. These workshops will be available to groups requesting them. We hope to provide

workshops to groups of all types, such as schools, Adult Education classes, activist groups, youth groups, assisted living homes, prisons, other media projects, and any other interested groups.

- **Traveling Media Center:** We plan to buy a full size bus and convert it into a traveling studio and workshop space. We hope to do a biodiesel conversion to power the bus, and use solar panels to power the equipment. The bus will eventually contain a darkroom, digital video editing studio, interview space, small workshop area, micro-radio center, networked computers with an Ethernet and cell uplink to the Internet, and various other equipment. Workshops & IMC coverage of big events will be based out of this traveling studio. This traveling studio can reach people who are spread far throughout the state, who might not otherwise be able to travel to a center to learn and use the tools of the media. The studio will travel to communities and allow members to practice using the tools and report on events affecting their communities.

- **Studio Spaces:** We plan to acquire digital video cameras, digital still cameras, mini-disc recorders, and computers to edit footage, and house them in various locations around the state. These tools will be available for in-studio use as well as lent out for coverage use. These studios will also provide workshop spaces. We will hopefully have at least one space for each region of the state -- we would like to share spaces with already-existing groups working on complementary projects.

- **Prison Media Project:** This project will work to help a diverse group who have little to no public voice -- prisoners -- to make their experiences public, and report on life in prison. We hope to organize media literacy and tool-use workshops to take place in prisons in the state, and continue correspondence with people in prison, sending those interested copies of the Maine Commons Press, and making their coverage available through our various media forums.

- **Maine Lost History Project:** We would like to have a monthly column in the Maine Commons written about the forgotten history of Maine towns - the "unofficial" history, labor history, cultural history, etc. If you or someone you know could write a piece about your town, please get involved

If any of these projects particularly piques your interest, and you'd like to help get it started, please contact us.

Maine Commons Calendar Policy

If you would like your non-commercial event or meeting including in the monthly Maine Commons Calendar and online at calendar.maineindymedia.org, email: editor@maineindymedia.org or write: Maine IMC P.O. Box 1444 Waterville, ME 04903

Please include short description, date, time, location, & contact information. Maine IMC reserves the right to edit entries for length and refuse entries with a reason.



VIGILS : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Birds-white and Banners for "Peaceful Justice"

BY SARAH ANDERSON

For Thursday September 20th students and faculty at the College of the Atlantic heeded the nationwide call of Concerned Students for Justice Without War at Wesleyan College to join in organizing a community oriented event of some kind for this day. Through simple outreach tactics and a day of bird-puppet making, we were able to involve approximately fifty to sixty college community members, area residents, and tourists in a silent walk into Bar Harbor where we converged on the town green to complete an hour of silence. A pamphlet which we distributed during the event noted that: "Although our voices are silent, the silence we hold is in recognition of a unified intent and not reflective of a repression of spirit, a weakness of will, or an unwillingness to act toward reparation of our country's circumstance."

Along with some 155 other mobilized colleges and universities, on September 20th we radiated a vision of hope to ourselves and the world around us that the movement for truth and justice continues and grows. With the world spinning all around and through Bar Harbor and the circle of birds and banners which formed on the town's Village Green, a moment stopped on our thoughtful silence. Where we were standing "together in conscientious respect for one another and human beings worldwide, understanding that violence provokes violence and thus fails as a means to greater security and freedom."

Bombs, Bread, and Democracy

BY BRIAN GEIER

Little did we know when we decided to call the event in Bangor on September 29th "Bread not Bombs" that the military was wrapping up food packages to drop in a ridiculous action designed to make our war effort seem 'humanitarian', and add to the blanket



photo credit: Eric Anderson

Around 40 protesters gather in Monument Square, Portland, for a discussion after a peace rally on Saturday, October 6th.

of complacency for this war. "Bomb them with bread!" we said. This reflects the speed with which the war machine is moving, co-opting every rational unveiling of its myths before the 'peace-movement' can come to grasp them.

Still, the event demonstrates a necessary and bold move for activists to search for creative, more inclusive and democratic ways of involving people in events and meetings. Post-September 11th, concerned activists were barraged with events where we looked to the traditionals and to professionals for our words and ideas for action. (I don't mean to say that these weren't helpful; it's definite that a lot of us need to hear from people who know a lot about U.S. Foreign Policy and the history of the Middle East). However, as we witness the onslaught of the war going so quickly and seemingly so far out of our reach, relying solely on familiar organizing tactics and structures has left many people feeling silenced and disempowered ... while war fever spreads. It was in response to this systematic silencing that "Bread not Bombs" was organized. Certainly it was a humble event -- not one that will stop the bombs in a day -- but I do believe it demonstrated a model that needs to be

examined: one where more ideas, more voices, and different tactics are not only used, but prioritized.

I was talking to a good friend who said that he felt the only work he could be doing right now in this 'movement to end the war' is stopping the systematic dehumanization that is repeating itself in every meeting he participates in. Many people are saying that we need more than an 'anti-war' movement; that we need to continue the movement 'for' things -- like a real democratic way of living! I heard from another friend in NY who said the most effective thing their group had done since September 11th was when they asked every male over 30 to silence themselves and count to 100. Another friend highlighted the need for activist communities to be as critical and encouraging of dialogue about their own processes as they are about the U.S. government.

I hope that the "Bread Not Bombs" event can serve as some lesson in democracy, because the quieted voices, even in our own activist circles and our communities, are whispering -- and we are losing the ability to hear them. The captivating actions are those that involve fresh creation, not inflation of the old -- and the ideas lie in our

silenced corners, they do not pre-exist atop a mountain -- we must delve down inside ourselves, not call for others to come up. Courage to all as we delve into the wounds of a long-overdue democracy.

Portland Protest

BY TOJI PERLMAN

On Saturday Oct 6, the day before U.S. and British forces starting a bombing campaign in Afghanistan, protesters braved semi-torrential rains and lightning attend a rally for peace in downtown Portland. The protest, organized by Southern Maine Global Action Network and co-sponsored by Peace Action Maine, was a citizen's response to the threat of military action in Afghanistan.

At 12:30 after the rains had stopped about 40 protesters marched from Longfellow Square to Monument Square, where they formed a discussion circle. Some related concerns about the well-being of the millions of refugees forced out of their homes to escape U.S. bombs and Taliban "war recruitment". Others discussed the origins of anti-U.S. sentiment in Central Asia, including 1.5 million dead in Iraq due to U.S. sanctions, and support of human rights abuses in Palestine. The discussion also included concern that bombing would give Bin Laden the Holy War he has called for, thus, mobilizing existing terrorist groups and supporting the creation of new ones. There was also support for providing the Afghan government with proof of Bin Laden's guilt and proposing a trial through an international tribunal.

All in all the protest was a success. It not only spread awareness to those who have not been exposed to the idea of a peaceful resolution, but it also allowed those who were already informed to share their feelings and ideas in public without fear of being called un-American. With exception of a couple of angry people, the reaction in the street was generally supportive and did not reflect the supposed 92% support of military action.

Weekly Peace Vigils Around the State

Sundays

Belfast, Southeast corner (Hayford Building) of High and Main St.
Noon
Sponsored by Women in Black and Standing for Peace. Wear black, Bring signs and banners.

Blue Hill, Town Hall
5-6 pm
Information: Call 326-4405

Rockland, Post Office, Limerock St.
7:00 PM
Information: Call Mark 594-9575

Brunswick, Brunswick Mall
6:00 PM
Information: Call Barbara 443-2899

Mondays

Portland, Monument Square.
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Sponsored by Peace Action Maine, Veterans for Monument Square,

Portland Peace, and the Maine Labor Party

Lewiston, Kennedy Park.
5:30 PM
Information: Call Matt 946-4478

Tuesdays

Bangor, Federal Building, Harlow St.
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Bring signs and candles.
Information: Call 942-9343

Wednesdays

Bucksport, In Front Of Town Office, Main St.
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
In November, please come at 4PM!
Time returns to 5PM after November.
Information: Call Karen 469-3946

If you know of any vigils not included in this list, please write or email Maine Independent Media Center.



More Draconian Measures Taken to Curtail Online Free Speech

BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

If you're a conscientious computer user, or a proponent of freedom of expression, or both, you've probably already heard about the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA was put into effect in 1998 by the US government - under pressure from the RIAA and the WIPO - largely as a backlash against the increase in trading of MP3 music files, illegally copied software, and other "contraband" on the internet.

Its major flaw, as with so many bills that have been passed, is that it is worded so broadly. It has been used many times, not to punish people who illegally copy music or indiscriminately crack software protection algorithms, but to curtail freedom of speech in the interests of the corporations.

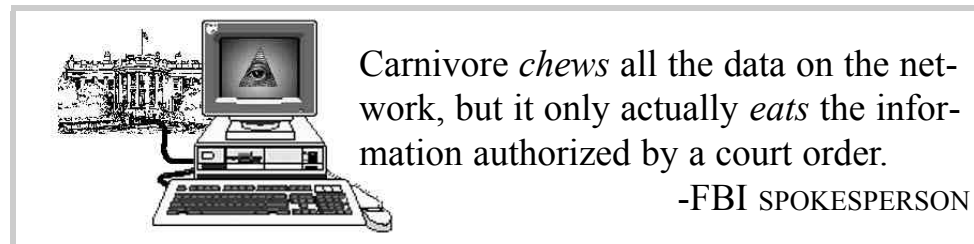
Students and professors of computer science -- specialists in computer security at the university level -- have been threatened and arrested simply for pointing out and proving the existence of flaws in computer software security. What they are doing can be potentially very helpful to the company that wrote the software, because they expose the flaws that the programmers missed, and those programmers can work to cover up the weakness in the next version.

One might see this as a thinly-veiled argument in defense of computer hacking and cracking, but the difference is in the motivation.

Professor Felten at Princeton University tried to publish a paper exposing a security flaw in a piece of software. He had been challenged by the software company to find a way to break their security. When it was clear that he had met the challenge (evidently the company had not expected anyone to do so), he was threatened with a lawsuit by the RIAA and the company that had, in effect, hired him. This lawsuit was backed up by the DMCA's clause referring to distribution of code, which should be protected under freedom of expression but isn't. In the end, Professor Felten pulled the paper from the publisher and declined to present it at the conference he had written it for, but vowed not to back down. He and the EFF (Electronic Frontiers Foundation) continue to fight the RIAA in the battle for freedom of information.

A similar situation, in which the DMCA was abused by Adobe Systems Corporation, mega-corporate publisher

of industry-standards Photoshop, Acrobat and Pagemaker, is the case of Dmitry Sklyarov. Sklyarov is a Russian programmer who devised an algorithm to allow purchasers of electronic books, published through a technology developed by Adobe, to copy and paste the books' content into unprotected files, thus making the books more portable and not dependent on Adobe's eBook software. Sklyarov's company in Russia (without approval from Sklyarov) began to sell the technology in an executable file to users of Adobe's eBooks. Adobe caught wind of this, and sent the FBI to intercept Sklyarov in July 2001 as he came to the US to present a paper on his findings. He has been in jail for many months, and due in part to efforts by websites like www.freesklyarov.org and www.boycottadobe.org, he has finally been released on bail, although he is forbidden to return to his family in Russia.



Carnivore *chews* all the data on the network, but it only actually *eats* the information authorized by a court order.

-FBI SPOKESPERSON

These incidents are only the first step, however, in the restriction of internet users' freedom of speech. Beginning in 2000, the FBI has been able to, in some cases, install a technology called Carnivore at particular internet service providers in order to watch specific users who use those providers. Carnivore uses sophisticated monitoring technology to read internet communications as they pass through the ISP's servers, and search for words relevant to the issue at hand. Of course, installing it at an ISP used by a particular user also influences the freedom and privacy of all other users of that ISP. It would not be hard for the FBI to "slip" and monitor all internet traffic through that ISP, rather than only that of the person they are watching. Indeed, with a powerful machine doing the work of thousands of agents, the issue of manpower for surveillance is rendered moot. Up until now, the FBI has not been able to monitor all internet traffic simply because of a lack of manpower. Proponents of internet privacy have all breathed easier because of this knowledge. But the FBI has developed this new technology that, potentially, can do the work of thousands, can do it faster, and doesn't require a paycheck. The origin of the codename, according to an FBI spokesperson: "Carnivore *chews* all the data on the network, but it only actu-

ally *eats* the information authorized by a court order."

Seems awfully broad, doesn't it? Well, if we assume the FBI is a law-abiding agency, then we should all be safe. But within the past month, a piece of legislation called the USA/Patriot Act has pushed its way through Congress. This act, among other things, allows any law-enforcement officer to use Carnivore technology without a court order. This means that any so-and-so with a badge is allowed to wiretap your computer (or phone) on no evidence higher than "reasonable suspicion." If you think the DMCA has the capability to be abused, it's nothing compared to the blatant civil-liberties-smashing that will go on under this law. This is newly-passed legislation, and we are in the middle of a war, so examples of abuse have not yet cropped up, but mark my words, they will. Expect this to be used

to target anyone the establishment doesn't like, from black-bloc anarchists to Green Party members, from child-porn jockeys to MP3-trading kiddies.

But this is not the end of it. One would think that such measures would be enough to satisfy even the most paranoid legislators. But the draconian measures hinted at have not yet even come into play - and with any luck, they will not. Enter the SSSCA (Security Systems Standards and Certification Act). The bill is, as yet, only in draft mode. It may be watered down or thrown out entirely, but if it is passed because we were not aware enough of it to help in its downfall, then only we are to blame.

The SSSCA, in a nutshell, will mandate the installation of "digital rights management" technology in all software and hardware manufactured in or imported to the United States. That translates to hardware-based copy protection schemes that will keep even lawful copying of software and music from taking place. MP3, the well-known music compression algorithm, is not illegal in and of itself. MP3.com allows free downloads of massive numbers of licensed music files, and many people make digitally-compressed copies of their personal CDs for increased portability.

These things are not illegal, but they would be made so under the SSSCA, which assumes that anyone with MP3s on their computer is breaking the law. But it is not enough for this law to stop people from encoding or trading music files. Several versions of the SSSCA draft include a kind of mini-Carnivore, which will allow police to monitor not only your internet traffic but your keystrokes as well - which would subject people who write and print rather than transmit over the internet to the same scrutiny. This technology would be included in all new computers after the bill is passed, and any attempt to circumvent it would result in immediate arrest. Users of home-built computers or alternative operating systems such as Linux might be targeted as well, as proponents of the bill seem to think that Linux users are all lawless hackers interested only in breaking any rules they can find.

This is all up in the air at the moment, but the SSSCA is backed by the RIAA, Hollywood, and the Disney Corporation, so don't expect it will be defeated easily. Those of us who care about our privacy online, whether or not we are doing anything illegal, need to stand up and oppose these measures before it is too late. Big Brother may be gaining power, but we are not powerless to stop him unless we choose to be.

For more information, go to:

<http://cryptome.org/ssca.htm>
(Full Text of the SSSCA)
<http://www.eff.org>
(The Electronic Frontier Foundation)
<http://www.stoppoliceware.org/>
(An Anti-SSSCA site)
<http://www.petitiononline.com/SSSCA/>
(Online Petition against the SSSCA)

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The Movement Is Not Dead! A Call For Global Solidarity

BY ETHAN MILLER

It was less than a week after the terrible attacks of September 11, and the corporate media had already added a new but familiar name to the growing list of casualties: the so-called "anti-globalization" movement. The Boston Globe declared that "the anti-globalization movement is in tatters," while another headline proclaimed the movement to be "...so yesterday." The verdicts poured in from pundits across the country: this recent upsurge of protest against the institutions of corporate/capitalist globalization has lost its relevancy and its credibility in the wake of September 11. Those who would challenge the economic structures advanced by the corporations and governments of the West are "anti-American," "sharing the terrorist hatred for the West," or "threats to freedom loving people everywhere". The propaganda machines have been cranking on high gear to delegitimize, discredit, and destroy the powerful manifestations of global solidarity that have been growing in North America since the successful shut-down of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle two years ago.

It is true? Are the corporate coroners correct? Is the movement dead? Of course not! These declarations ignore (often consciously) two essential points. First, this is an *international* movement that has arisen out of multiple struggles in the Global South against the forces of neoliberal, neo-colonialist, capitalist globalization. We here in the U.S. have simply *joined together* with people around the world, enacting our solidarity. No amount of delegitimizing by the U.S. corporate media can defeat this growing power, because we are not just here, we are *everywhere*.

Secondly, this is a movement

that arises not out of sheer ideological convictions, but out of the real conditions of injustice, suffering, and exploitation experienced by people across the globe. From New York to Kabul to Cochabamba, the ongoing implementation of the corporate-capitalist globalization project will continue to give rise to conditions of life that cry out for transformation. As long as these conditions remain, the necessity for struggle will remain. As long as the necessity for struggle remains, this global "movement of movements" cannot die.

Indeed, the tragedy of September 11th drives home to the U.S. the terrible urgency of this struggle for global justice. The terror -- even for the privileged wealthy white minority -- is no longer *elsewhere*, experienced by others, glimpsed at a cold, mediated distance. It too, and the unsettling fear that accompanies it, is everywhere. And now, more than ever, we must stand in solidarity with those who live daily with the pain of social, economic, and ecological violence. Now, more than ever, we must immerse ourselves in the work of opposing the global structures that perpetuate these forms of violence and terror and in the work of creating viable alternatives.

The voices of power, as usual, are presenting us with only two choices. "You're either with us or with the terrorists," declared George W. Bush. Either/or. Inaction or complicity. Patriotism or treason. The work of the Lord or the work of the Devil. But this "war on terrorism" (or, more accurately, this war on the innocent people of Afghanistan) is not a war between Good and Evil. It is not a battle between right and wrong. It is terror against terror, greed against greed, vengeful retribution against ruthless vengeance. The innocent people of the world, standing amidst the senseless

rudder, are being trapped between two poles of global tragedy.

We must refuse these choices, reject the either/or logic of the empire, and declare that another world is possible. As George Caffentzis of the Southern Maine Global Action Network eloquently observed in a recent commentary:

We in the antiglobalization movement must not be caught between the huge bombs of Bush and the smaller bombs of Islamic fundamentalists or be the grass trampled by the lopsided struggle between the giant and smaller elephants. For at the moment, at least, our movement is the only one capable of leading an escape from the hellish dialectic of homicide and suicide that the forces of global capital and the perpetrators of the September 11 massacres have launched into oblivion.

As we face the ongoing escalation of a genocidal policy of war against all nations "harboring terrorists" (does that include *this* one?) and as we face the ongoing violent implementation of the capitalist globalization agenda, our work -- and the connective power that it embodies -- becomes more important than ever. The only way to stop the rapidly spiraling cycle of global violence that terrorism (both that of the September 11 perpetrators and that of the US Government) embodies is to continue the very work that we have been doing all along--challenging, confronting, and transforming the current exploitative and destructive structures of global economic, social, and political power.

Building a movement against war is not enough. Building a movement for "peace" is not enough. And, in fact, building a movement against "globalization" is not enough. We must build on the successes of the recent past and move beyond them. We must build, now, a movement that is clear in

its opposition to global violence and oppression in all of its forms -- economic, social/cultural, and ecological. Our task must now be to challenge and delegitimize both the corporate-sponsored state project of war and the state-sponsored corporate project of globalization. A movement against the global structures of capitalist, racist, sexist, and imperialist domination. A movement of many movements -- "one no, many yes's"(EZLN) -- connected in common struggle for dignity, social and economic justice, ecological sanity, and cultural, community and individual self-determination. A *global solidarity* movement.

The urgency of this historical moment cannot be exaggerated. As the United States government pursues a path of morally-bankrupt violence against the people of Afghanistan -- potentially causing both the starvation of over one million innocent people and the escalation of a long, deadly global conflict; as the World Trade Organization meets in Qatar to push forward its agenda to (among other things) privatize essential social services, patent life, open financial borders for the benefit of corporate profits, and turn the world into a cluster of specialized monocultures; as the wealthy elites of the world continue to undermine the possibilities for global democracy and justice in their pursuit of power and profit at all costs -- *we must respond*. With education, with agitation, with organization, we must respond. In our communities, our workplaces, our schools, our churches, and in our streets, we must respond. Building a movement of global solidarity that stretches from Bangladesh to Bolivia, from Jalalabad to Jamaica, from Morocco to Maine, we must respond. Break the silences wherever you find them! Fight to win! See you in the streets!

Temple Stream wages artistic war against Wal-Mart

BY ERNEST GURNEY & HILLARY LISTER

A few weeks ago, the First Annual Farmington Clean Clothes Fair was held. It was sponsored by the Maine Clean Clothes Alliance, the Women's Studies program of UMF, and UMF student activist group SEA Change. The goals of the fair are to heighten awareness of the sweat shop industry and its world-wide human rights violations and to bring this problem down to the very local level: where you shop for clothing and what clothing you buy. Since clothing is an essential

purchase for every household, every household has power in this exchange.

One of the participants in this year's fair was the Temple Stream Theater. Founded two years ago in an unused church in Temple, this family theater has its beginnings in New York City, the Bread and Puppet Theater of Vermont, and the work of Mabel Dennison. The company consists of Michael Romanyshyn, his wife Susie Dennison and nephew Jesse Johnson.

Their performance at the Clean Clothes Fair was drawn from a local (yet global) issue - the proposed Wal-

Mart expansion in Farmington last fall, and the resulting battle. As Susie's mother, the late Mabel Dennison, had participated in the actual events upon which the performance was based, the play was particularly poignant and close to home.

The performance showed the fight by, at first, a mere two concerned citizens, Mabel Dennison and Anne Baynton, against the building of a Wal-Mart Supercenter. The proposed store would nearly double the size of the one currently existing in Farmington. Baynton and Dennison gathered 400

signatures (after two petitions that were ruled as not fulfilling legal petition requirements) from people opposed to the expansion. This petition requested a town-wide referendum to vote on limiting the size of retail stores in Farmington. This action would have retroactively rescinded planning approval of the Wal-Mart SuperCenter. The push by these local citizens to block the building of a Wal-Mart SuperCenter in Farmington was fought by a very large PR campaign by Wal-

**TEMPLE : CONTINUED FROM PG. 12**

Mart, which, among other things, placed full page ads in the local papers claiming that the people organizing against the Super Wal-Mart were in a position, economically, where needing a job probably didn't matter. Wal-Mart framed the debate as anti-Wal-Mart citizens representing some disconnected, rich group, and with Wal-Mart representing the concerns of poor and working class people needing good jobs - basically, a class war

On the other hand, as Michael explains, "...I think that if people looked at it like an issue around free enterprise [they would not support Wal-Mart's actions] ... we feel that Wal-Mart thwarts free enterprise and kills free enterprise, and that's an issue around all the big corporations. There wasn't really time to talk about those things [before the vote to approve a Super Wal-Mart came up], and it got to be an emotional thing in Farmington."

The PR campaign succeeded. At the town meeting where the referendum was to be brought to vote, the gym was packed, and included hundreds of Wal-Mart supporters who sat together in the bleachers, corralled there by several people Baynton described as "Wal-Mart henchmen brought in to rile up the mob." Many of the supporters clutched pro-Wal-Mart bumper stickers handed out by the Wal-Mart organizers.

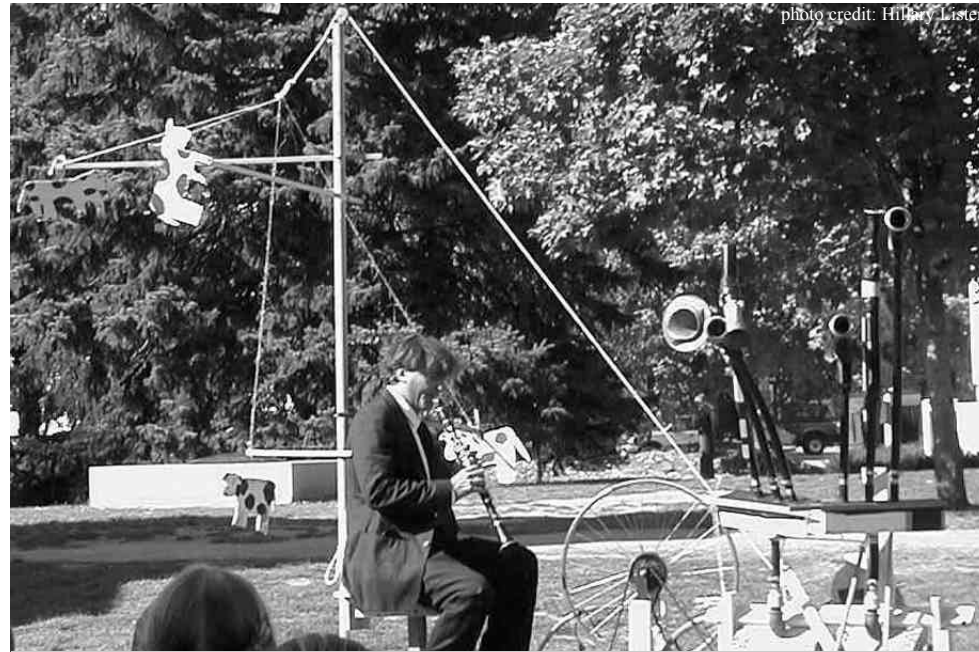
The meeting opened with a comment period, and when Baynton rose to speak in favor of the referendum, the bleachers erupted. Wal-Mart supporters pumped their signs and screamed, hurling insults at Baynton and referendum proponents who they derided variously as "rich," "from away," "snobs" and worse. When Baynton, a homemaker who is legally blind, attempted to press on, one of the town's selectmen - who Baynton maintains had been smoothing the way for Wal-Mart for more than six months - moved for an immediate vote, later saying he did so in the interest of public safety. When the votes had been counted, the referendum was defeated, 687-309. A Wal-Mart supporter unfurled a sign in the bleachers that read, "THE TRIBE HAS SPOKEN." The Super Wal-Mart was approved.

According to Michael "I think it wasn't entirely unexpected; Farmington is a conservative town, and there maybe wasn't enough real education about the issue involved ... the vote was scheduled so quickly that it made it really difficult for people to have time to talk about it, and really talk about the economic disadvantages of that, because the statistics are so clear. I mean, you look at any other place,

where every job that Wal-Mart creates, 1.5 are lost. There is no job creation in retail, that's a pretty basic thing."

Before her death, Mabel was able to see a dress rehearsal, in which she is a main character puppet, last spring when the play was in its creative stages.

The Temple Stream Theater presents the work using a variety of styles in a very entertaining way. The musical underpinning of homemade instruments and drums lent an atmosphere of a traveling road show, like the



One fascinating component of the theater is the instruments. Different mechanical instruments are created by Michael for different shows. They provide background for the plays and are all human-powered and constructed of found objects. The one above uses bicycle power to power a series of bellows. Each bellow has a wind-chamber attached with organ pipes, reeds, and homemade bells. The result is a slow evocative drone, something like a big bagpipe.

road show in Bergman's "The Seventh Seal." Using hand-puppets in a traditional children's puppet theater style reinforced this feeling of a people's performance. Yet the play itself is structured somewhat as a traditional Greek play (complete with Greek Chorus). Michael and Jesse would appear costumed, and exchange banter, explaining the issues of the play. Then Susie would appear as a dancing, jingling, but non-speaking bird, carrying signs offering questions and ideas through the play.

Temple Steam Theater was formed when Susie and Michael returned to Maine after living for a number of years in New York City.

"We had a puppet theater in New York called "Los Kabayitos," part of a community center with several other theaters, Spanish language theaters. We had a center for experimental and political puppetry in New York City, and we did festivals there as a sort of resident company. A couple of years ago we decided to move back to Maine, and luckily at the same point there was an old church in Temple that

had been unused ... so we got that, and now we have a little theater."

Similar to Bread and Puppet, Temple Stream Theater addresses social and political issues. As Michael explains, "We're interested in issues around world development, and the future of Maine, and what Maine's going to look like, and also alternative ideas for world economy. Our connection goes back to working with the Bread and Puppet Theater for many years, so we have a strong interest in doing our shows around political issues

ance if anyone is organizing around superstore development, and specifically around Wal-Mart. They also offer workshops, as there is interest, for local kids and adults.

People or groups interested in plays or workshops by Temple Stream Theater can call 779-0635 or they can email templestream@aol.com.

WERU "Affiliate in Exile" from Pacifica Network

BY MATT MURPHY

For the past several years, Community Radio WERU of East Orland (89.9 FM Blue Hill and 102.9 FM Bangor) has been affiliated with the Pacifica Foundation and its programming distribution arm, the Pacifica Network. For over half a century Pacifica has been a national leader in progressive, listener-supported, volunteer-powered, non-commercial radio. The network started with one radio station in Berkeley, California (KPFA), later growing to five large urban stations and distributing news and public affairs programming to scores of community radio stations throughout the country. In recent years the organization has been rocked by internal conflicts over censorship by management, unfair labor practices, fiscal mismanagement, lack of democratic governance and accountability, and poor technical service to affiliates.

Effective October 1, 2001, WERU decided not to renew its broadcasting contract with Pacifica and suspended its affiliation. This action came after a lengthy and open decision-making process through which it was determined that the Pacifica Network was no longer providing adequate programming or management accountability to satisfy the needs of WERU.

Furthermore, WERU became an "Affiliate in Exile" to demonstrate solidarity with Amy Goodman (award winning journalist and host of Democracy Now in Exile) and scores of other banned or fired ("exiled") former Pacifica producers, Pacifica Reporters Against Censorship (producers of Free Speech Radio News), and more than a dozen other community radio stations that have been damaged by the mismanagement of the Pacifica Foundation. A coalition of community radio broadcasters and producers, activists and listeners, under an umbrella organization known as the Pacifica Campaign, are working to restore the Pacifica Network to its original mission of alternative, progressive and democratic media.

More information about the Pacifica campaign is available on-line at www.pacificacampaign.org. WERU info can be found by calling 207-469-6600 or on-line at www.weru.org.

and social issues"

When asked of present and future plans for Temple Stream Theater, Michael replies, "Well, we're doing shows, and now, of course, with the war going on, we feel really strongly about doing shows about justice, against vengeance, and sanity over hysteria, and trying to make a mark that defines ourselves so we don't get defined by other people ... We feel that there are a lot of people that feel that way, and anyway, it's a good time, a necessary time to speak out. So we're going to work on things like that, but we also want to keep doing things about what's going on in Maine and not forget, that in all of this, that's really important too. I'm interested in the proposed East-West Highway, and we sort of allude to that in our show here; I think that's a big issue for here. Plenty [of issues to explore, such as] aerial spraying, there's more than enough issues to make shows about here in Maine."

Temple Stream Theater has been performing by invitation around the state, and is available for perform-



Annual Victory Gardens Harvest Takes Place in Athens

BY HILLARY LISTER
ASSISTANCE BY ERROL SCHWEITZER

The Victory Gardens Project held its annual harvest in Athens, Maine on the weekend of October 13th.

Founded in 1996 by New York 3 Afrikan Liberation prisoner Herman Bell and Carol Dove and Michael Vernon from rural central Maine, the Victory Gardens Project is attempting to bridge the divide between oppressed urban and rural communities, while merging the struggles for black liberation and earth liberation; as Malcolm X once pointed out, all revolutionary struggles are centered on the question of land. The name of the project is borrowed from the victory gardens planted during WWII to grow food in economically depressed communities to support the war effort - today's project is similar, but is working to support the resisters and survivors of what members consider the present day war on people and the environment. The project attempts to offer a better, sustainable way to live, by growing food, feeding people, practicing sustainable living, working to free U.S. political prisoners, exchanging skills and ideas, and connecting rural and urban areas. The projects promotes the idea that people should work in and with the places they are tied to, grew up in, or share a cultural history with, while making connections with other communities as well and learning through exchange.

Herman Bell, who is locked down at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NY, says that the project is based on the idea that only through collective self-help can people improve their material conditions. It is an extension of the survival programs started by the Black Panther Party in the 1960's, which stated that communities could organize to take care of their own needs, such as jobs, food, housing, health care, and education. In terms of independent food production, the project shows how much food can be produced by committed volunteers; with three parcels of land totaling well under 2 acres, they grew over 12,000 pounds of food last summer, including carrots, potatoes, squash, peas, corn, beans, spinach, cilantro and garlic. The project also focuses on educating about, connecting people with and helping political prisoners because, as Carol says, "They were active in their community before they got picked up and they are unselfish people who are interested in the well being of all people."

The group exists through the power of volunteers and donations. The project tries to move away from relying

on cash-based buying and selling, and instead works to exchange resources through barter, trade, scavenging, and use of what's already here in the earth. There are seven core members, who help with all aspects of the project, from gardening to fundraising. There are also hundreds of volunteers who help and exchange skills and knowledge from around the country. Members of the local communities have helped out in

and give, while those who somehow aren't capable of providing for themselves receive. As core member Christina Adamo says, "Charity unfortunately has no long term plan and is overwhelmed by increasing demand for services. Charity does not deal with the root cause, it doesn't even provide adequate help for immediate problems, let alone encourage self-sufficiency or empowerment."



photo credit: Hillary Lister

Victory Gardens Project volunteers harvest assorted tubers from the garden on Jay Robinson's land in Athens.

numerous ways. Local farmer Jay Robinson donates use of his land and tills it. Athens dairy farmer Guy Anton donates manure for the garden's and has offered free rental of the local grange in exchange for painting it. Ray Harville offers use of an old gas station in the center of town which provides visibility and a food distribution center for the project. Kenny Clark and Burt Summers offer use of their trucks. Local artists Abby and Fang have donated soups and use of their well. Anna Freeman does sewing. The owner of a local restaurant, Stu Silverstein has donated bread and meals. Other people have made artwork donations, clothes, building and vehicle donations. Many people donate food for distribution. FEDCO and Moose Tubers have donated seed and plants for garden use and community distribution. Others, such as Marsha Burnett in Vermont, offer their grantwriting skills. Individual donors and The Fund for Peoples Places and Haymarket Peoples Fund have helped provide financial support. The project, in all its aspects, relies on everyone's participation. It is frequently emphasized that the work of the project is to help communities become self-sufficient and work with and for each other, not to be charity in which some kind people come

The project also emphasizes that as food is a basic component of life, it should be free, and free from poison. Many poor communities, especially in urban areas, filled with liquor stores and fast food chains, find that they cannot afford to eat healthful food, and there becomes an unnecessary setup where only wealthy communities can afford to buy healthful, organic food. The Victory Gardens Project works to show that is not necessary, as it has only four full-time people, plus volunteers, and it produces enough healthful, organic food to feed its people, provide a daily distribution in Athens, and make multi-ton distributions to 2 to 3 urban communities each year.

This year's harvest began with people arriving at the Athens Grange from throughout the Athens community, the state and the country for this year's harvest. For the past 5 years there have been food distributions coordinated with Uhuru (whose name means "freedom"), a Black revolutionary nationalist group that does youth mentoring and organizing in East Orange, NJ. Members of Uhuru came up for the second time this year, and for this trip a number of high-school students traveled up with the group. Other groups came up from

Boston. One of the main Boston organizers, Kazi, who works for American Friends Service Committee has helped organize distributions in that area. There were people of all ages helping with the harvest of carrots, beets, rutabegas, and tomatoes with the occasional intense rotten tomato fight. A number of local youth showed up to help with the harvest (and tomato and leaf fights.) Those who weren't harvesting were in the kitchen of the Athens grange preparing delicious food for dinner. The dinner, like the rest of the harvest, is open to all in the community. All of the food was either donated, scavenged, or came for the gardens. After dinner the annual talent show took place, with dancing, singing, plays, poetry, and AntiPants which might be uncategorizable, among other projects - and drum circles were a constant presence throughout the weekend. Sunday consisted of a morning basketball game and breakfast, and then presentations and discussions of people's various projects, and plans for the East Orange food distribution.

The following weekends have found Victory Gardens Project participants traveling to food distributions, with a ton and a half of food being distributed in East Orange, NJ, alone. At this distribution there is an all-day festival with speeches, Afrikan drums, dancing, a pumpkin weight guessing contest, and a clothing distribution. More food was distributed the next weekend in Boston. In Boston, food has been distributed with the group Nia (which means purpose in Swahili), and with nine activists who coordinate distributions with Page Academy, an Afrocentric school. Previous years, distributions have been done in New York City with the Black Panther Collective and the Malcolm X grassroots Movement (MXGM), and in Philadelphia with the MOVE organization. Food is distributed in hand-designed burlap sacks that also contain recipes and info about the food, the projects, and info about political prisoners, where to write them, and how to get involved. Finally, in addition to the continual seed, plant, and food distributions throughout the summer, there is a major harvest distribution in Athens, Maine.

If you are interested in volunteering or making donations to the Victory Gardens Project please write to :
Victory Gardens Project, RFD 1, Box 6025, Athens, ME 04912
If you are interested in arranging a food distribution in your community, please write to:
Herman Bell, 79C-0262, Clinton Correctional Facility, Box 2001 Dannemora, NY 12929



Networks Accept Government "Guidance"

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On October 10, network executives from ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and CNN held a conference call with national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, and apparently acceded to her "suggestion" that any future taped statements from Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda group be "abridged," and any potentially "inflammatory" language removed before broadcast.

The question of how to present the words of bin Laden or representatives of Al Qaeda is certainly a valid one for journalists to consider. The statements require context and explanation of the kind journalists should use to bracket the remarks of any party in a major news story. But it is inappropriate for the government to dictate to journalists how to report the news. In the context of recent heavy-handedness on the part of the administration, Rice's request suggests that the White House is actually asking for something other than simple journalistic judgment.

Originally the administration expressed concern about the possibility of Al Qaeda members sending "coded messages" to their followers in the segments. But Rice's main argument to the networks seems to have been that bin Laden's statements must be restricted because of their content. NBC News chief Neal Shapiro told the New York Times that Rice's main point "was that here was a charismatic speaker who could arouse anti-American sentiment getting 20 minutes of air time to spew

hatred and urge his followers to kill Americans."

Although presented as only a call for caution, there's danger that the White House conference call may make broadcasters think twice about airing any footage of bin Laden at all. The following day, Fleischer took the administration's campaign further and contacted major newspapers to request that they consider not printing full transcripts of bin Laden's messages. "The request is to report the news to the American people," said Fleischer. "But if you report it in its entirety, that could raise concerns that he's getting his prepackaged, pretaped message out" (NY Times).

To its credit, the Times has apparently resisted such requests, but some media execs seem to actually appreciate the White House pressure. "We'll do whatever is our patriotic duty," said News Corp executive Rupert Murdoch (Reuters). In an official statement, CNN declared: "In deciding what to air, CNN will consider guidance from appropriate authorities" (AP). CNN chief Walter Isaacson added, "After hearing Dr. Rice, we're not going to step on the land mines she was talking about" (NY Times).

The point is not that bin Laden deserves "equal time" on U.S. news broadcasts, but that it is troubling for government to shape or influence news content. Withholding information from the public is hardly patriotic. When the White House insists that it's dangerous to report a news event "in its entirety," alarm bells should go off for journalists and the American public alike.

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Turn over for Donation Form

Food or cluster bomb?

Yellow wrapping hides different presents, U.S. psy-ops tells Afghans

BY LAURA FLANDERS

Some people were outraged a few weeks back when I employed some imagination -- an indispensable tool of journalism -- to put two and two together and suggest that in the matter of the U.S. assault on Afghanistan, feeding and bombing wouldn't mix.

Now, sadly, there's no doubt that many of the food packets the U.S. forces have dropped have gotten into the wrong hands and as the U.S. bombing mission enters its fourth week, the United Nations' World Food Program is saying that the first snows -- expected around November 15 -- are about to block mountain passes and roads, making it hard to get more effective aid deliveries through.

Relief officials on the ground are fearful that if there is no suspension of bombing long enough to let sufficient numbers of truck shipments into the country, millions of Afghan civilians will starve to death: "Millions -- literally millions -- of Afghan civilians will starve to death this winter unless the U.S. military suspends its attacks and allows the UN to re-establish effective food distribution." Sarah Zaidi, research director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights in Pakistan told the Institute for Public Accuracy at the weekend. Zaidi's group has produced three comprehensive fact sheets on Afghanistan since September 11.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has sounded an alarm over the use of cluster bombs by American aircraft. According to a report published Friday, in the News International of Pakistan, U.S. cluster bombs killed eight people in a Herat village called Shaker Qala last week.

Cluster bombs are dropped in a casing which is supposed to split open in mid-air, scattering up to 200 bomblets the size of soft drink cans over an area as big as a U.S. football field. They are used to destroy vehicles, to start fires and as an anti-personnel weapon. Sometimes they descend with mini-parachutes designed to prevent explosion on impact, so that they deny the enemy the use of an area such as an airfield. (Shaker Qala, we're told, lies near a military camp.)

"The villagers have a lot to be afraid of, because these bomblets, if they did not explode, are very dangerous," Dan Kelly, manager of a UN mine removal program for Afghanistan, told the News. "They can explode if the villagers so much as touch them."

news, from the BBC: "The United States is seeking to avert further criticism over the use of cluster bombs in Afghanistan by warning the Afghan people not to confuse unexploded bombs with food drops."

The BBC (Sunday, October 28) reported that the yellow casing on the cluster bombs that U.S. forces are dropping on Afghanistan "means that from a distance they are hard to distinguish from the emergency food parcels wrapped in yellow plastic that U.S. planes have been dropping over the last few weeks."

The source for the BBC account was a U.S. psychological operations (psy-ops) radio broadcast. BBC Monitoring, a service based in southern England, selects and translates information from radio, television, press, news agencies and the internet from 150 countries in more than 70 languages, apparently including psy-op broadcasts.

According to the BBC, U.S. forces are using radio to reassure Afghans in Dari and Pashto -- two of five regional languages. The psy-ops messages also reveal U.S. concerns.

"Attention, noble Afghan people," the messages begin. "As you know, the coalition countries have been air-dropping daily humanitarian rations for you, the food ration is enclosed in yellow plastic bags. They come in the shape of rectangular or long squares. The food inside the bags is Halal and very nutritional."

In future, say the psy-ops broadcasters, "cluster bombs will not be dropped in areas where food is air-dropped."

"However, we do not wish to see an innocent civilian mistake the bombs for food bags and take it away believing that it might contain food."

"In areas away from where food has been dropped, cluster bombs will also be dropped. The color of these bombs is also yellow."

"Do not confuse the cylinder-shaped bomb with the rectangular food bag," the message concluded.

I only wish I was making this stuff up.

This article was originally printed in Common Cause, www.commoncause.org, a Portland, Maine based social change group and at Working for Change, www.workingforchange.com.



Senator McKinney (D-CA) holds up, on the left, a yellow-wrapped cluster bomb casing, and on the right, a yellow-wrapped food parcel.

And finally, here comes this